Mr. Bert Emery Merriam, *Morrisville*
Mr. Francis J. Porrazzo, *Providence, R. I.*
Mr. and Mrs. Myron Samuelson, *Burlington*
Mr. Frederick W. Fowler, *Hamden, Conn.*
Mr. Don M. Ryan, *New York, N. Y.*
Mrs. James Ashworth, *Southbridge, Mass.*
Mr. David S. Coon, *Escanaba, Mich.*
Mr. Irving S. Ellison, *Hughesville, Pa.*
Mrs. Celia E. Bennett, *Worcester, Mass.*
Mrs. Stephen W. Doty, *Chicago, Ill.*
Mr. and Mrs. Clark Boardman,*So. Hero*
Mr. C. E. Child, *Manchester*
Mr. Walter A. Dane, *Boston, Mass.*
Mr. G. S. Bennett, *Manchester*
Mr. C. Edward Cram, *Buffalo, N. Y.*
Mr. Richard E. Spurr, *Washington, D. C.*
Mrs. Beulah Boynton, *Manchester*
Mrs. Esther Billings, *Montpelier*
Dr. and Mrs. Olin Angell, *Millbury, Mass.*
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hofer, Jr., *Kew Gardens, N. Y.*
Mr. and Mrs. Louis B. Puffer, *Burlington*

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY STATE HOUSE MONTPELIER

Leon S. Gay, President
Arthur W. Peach, Acting Director
Mrs. Madelyn Davidson, Editor
Telephone: Montpelier 1500, Extension 39.

VHS *News and Notes*
VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Montpelier, Vermont

See. 34.66
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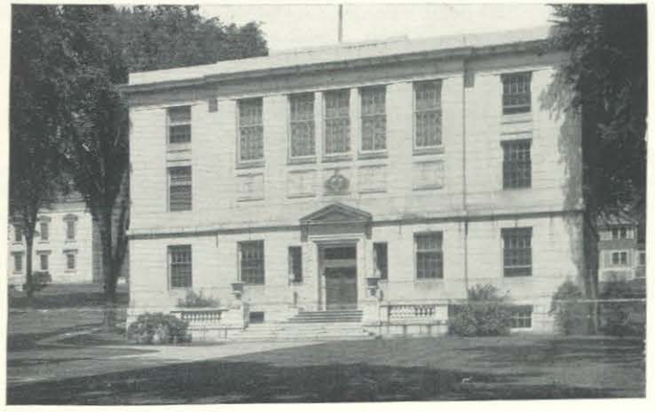
VHS *News and Notes*

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ISSUED BY THE VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 1 JUNE, 1950 NUMBER 10



ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER, JULY 1st, SATURDAY

Professor Allan Nevins, internationally and nationally known historian, Professor of American History at Columbia since 1931, will be the guest speaker at the banquet in the evening. Also, our recent director, Earle Williams Newton, now director of Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts, will be with us and on the speaking program. A secondary program of music and other interesting features will be planned around the speakers. The place will be the Pavilion Hotel, next to the State Library Building, the home of the Society. The new offices, library and museum will be open to inspection.

We feel we are fortunate indeed in securing Professor Nevins for our annual gathering. Possibly no American historian is so widely known and favorably regarded. Born in Illinois, he has ranged widely from his native state. He was visiting professor twice in England, once at Oxford University. During the last war, he served as special representative of the Office of War Information, and later was chief public affairs officer of the American Embassy in London. He has won the Pulitzer prize twice. His summer home is in Windham, Vermont; so we feel he belongs to us.

A special announcement is being sent to our members with full information, but we hope they will save the date, and come with friends. The Pavilion is spacious with plenty of room for members and their guests. Reservations, however, will be necessary for the dinner which will be informal. We hope and expect a large representation of our members and friends who are interested in the significance of history in our history-making day.

OUR NEW DIRECTOR

Dr. Arthur W. Peach, Professor of English and Head of the English Department at Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont, will become Director of the Society at the close of his university work in June. His Vermont interests are varied and extensive. A native Vermonter, descended from early settlers in Marlborough, Vt., he has been interested in Vermont history in all its phases since boyhood. He was chairman of the Committee on the Preservation of Vermont Traditions and Ideals under the Vermont Commission on Country Life. His committee published the four volumes of the *Green Mountain Series* of which he was editor-in-chief. His published books include *Four Plays by Royall Tyler,* (Princeton University Press) author of the first American comedy, *The Contrast.* He was chairman of the Citizens Sesquicentennial Committee in 1941, president of the Better Library Movement which promoted the regional book-wagon system of the state—the first of its type in America. He also served as chairman of the Vermont State Commission on Compacts Affecting Capital and Labor. He was a founder and president of the League of Vermont Writers and the Poetry Society of Vermont. He is editor of the Vermont section of the *World Book Encyclopedia,* widely sold in the schools of America, and associate editor of the state's official magazine, *Vermont Life.* For many years he has been interested in the Society, its work and its future, serving as vice president, as director of the Edmunds Memorial Prize Essay Contest which reaches all secondary schools in the state; he has also acted as editor of the *Proceedings,* now known as the *Vermont Quarterly.* His birthplace is Pawlet, Vermont.

A GIFT

Land tax record account book of the town of Plymouth (Vermont), 1825-1827. This was maintained by Moses Pollard and salvaged from an old trunk of papers found in the attic of the Elias Pinney house in Ludlow. The house had been occupied by Moses Pollard, Jr. It is a record of surveying made by Moses Pollard and is particularly significant since it carries records of the holdings of the Coolidge family and a description of their lands.

With the account book, Mary Orenda Pollard of Middlebury has given to the Society a sheet from her birthday book containing the autograph of Calvin Coolidge, born July 4, 1872. It dates at some time between 1885 and 1890, while he was attending Black River Academy. He was graduated in 1890, in a class of four, Miss Pollard tells us.

WELCOME BACK!

President Leon S. Gay of the Society and Mrs. Gay have just returned from a vacation trip to South Africa. They have been gone from Vermont for three and a half months and traveled in all about 26,000 miles. Mr. Gay has taken hundreds of pictures in black and white and color. We have his promise that he will tell the story of his trip and show the pictures at the coming meeting of the Society.

WILL ROGERS ON VERMONTERS

We will be grateful if our readers will send in contemporary comments on Vermont, no matter what the source. We have in mind balancing them, some day, with comments of the long ago. For instance, in *Vermont Life,* a quarterly published by the Vermont Development Commission, Montpelier, Will Rogers is quoted in *The Autobiography of Will Rogers* as saying: "Statistics prove that no Vermonter ever left the state unless transportation was furnished in advance."

We welcome non-complimentary remarks, also.

SWITZERLAND OF AMERICA

"Where did the reference to Vermont as the 'Switzerland of America' originate?", one of our members asks.

The reference appears in an address given by Ambassador Bryce at the Tercentary Celebration in 1909 of the Discovery of Lake Champlain and Vermont. "You men of northern Vermont and northern New Hampshire, living among its rocks and mountains in a region which may be called the Switzerland of America —you are the people here who have had hearts full of the love of freedom which exists in mountain peoples, and who have the indomitable spirit and the unconquerable will which we always associate with the lake and mountain lands of the Alps and Scotland."

Vermonters should notice that, as a matter of accuracy, New Hampshire was included in the "Switzerland" idea.

THANK YOU, MISS ELLIS

Miss Mary W. Ellis of Springfield (Vt.) writes as follows: "Your item about Timothy Dwight in the last issue *VHS News* could have been much larger. There were two Yale presidents by the name of Timothy Dwight, son and grandson, of the Timothy Dwight that was born at Fort Dummer.

A third Yale president was Theodore Dwight Woolsey, a nephew of the first Timothy Dwight president, a son of his sister.

Thus the Timothy Dwight who built Fort Dummer had three descendants who were presidents of Yale College — Timothy Dwight, 1795-1817; Theodore Woolsey, 1846-1871; and Timothy Dwight, 1886-1899."

Our statement was that two descendants with the *same* name became President and Professor at Yale but we are glad to include this additional information in this issue.

WANT AD

Our supply of issues 2 and 5 of *News and Notes* is entirely depleted. Libraries are writing in for them and we cannot fill their requests. If any members have saved theirs and would like to let us have them, we would appreciate it.

COVERED BRIDGE MAPS ARE AVAILABLE

With the tourist season beginning, we have found the maps of Vermont's covered bridges extremely popular with our visitors. And you may like one too. The autumn 1949 issue of *Vermont Life* carried it in reduced size. It is an unusually detailed map of several of the state's outstanding covered bridges and is suitable for framing. May be had for only $1.00.

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JAMES TAYLOR COLLECTION (1872-1949)

"A footpath in the wilderness", the *Long Trail,* was built by members of the Green Mountain Club, section by section, during the years 1910-1929. The Club was sparked by that great Vermonter, James P. Taylor, then principal of Vermont Academy, gradually increased its membership until it passed the 1500 mark, and achieved financial stability. In twenty years, the Long Trail has become one of the state's outstanding recreational attractions.

The illustration is of a marker on Route 9, a familiar sign up and down the state, wherever this famous footpath crosses highways.

His work for the Long Trail was only one of the examples of Mr. Taylor's leadership in state causes. He worked for the establishment of the Extension Service, now so valuable to our farm folk. He led the campaign for modern highways and sponsored the first gasoline taxes in the country. He urged the publicizing of our government, and we are all familiar with the attractive town reports now issued each year. He fathered the development of Vermont's tourist business and the open advertising of Vermont's virtues, and worked for state planning and local zoning. Jim Taylor *was* the State Chamber, and his civic leadership was brilliant over the many years. And last but not least, his efforts through-